

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A specimen conveyance holder moving system comprising:

a plurality of belt conveyors ~~which are provided to allow specimen conveyance holders to be conveyed along~~, each of which includes a pair of parallel guide rails and which have specific areas arranged in parallel to each other; along which specimen conveyance holders are conveyed, at least two of the belt conveyors including a holder moving areas which are provided in respective specific areas of at least two of the belt conveyors and section from which corresponding portions including at least the guide rails are removed;

a holder holding mechanism which is detachably set in the holder moving ~~areas~~ section and which has a pair of parallel guide rail pieces ~~at a lower end, the guide rail pieces serving as an alternative to the removed guide rails~~ along which the specimen conveyance holders are conveyed;

a moving mechanism ~~by which~~ lifts up or down the holder holding mechanism ~~is hung~~ and which horizontally moves the holder holding mechanism between the at least two belt conveyors ~~and detaches the holder holding mechanism from the holder moving areas;~~ and

a controller which drives the moving mechanism in association with a conveyance of the specimen conveyance holders.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The specimen conveyance holder moving system according to claim 1, further comprising a shutter which closes a carry-out port of the holder holding

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mechanism such that the specimen conveyance holders carried into the holder holding mechanism remain in the holder holding mechanism when the holder holding mechanism is set in the holder moving ~~area~~section.

4. (Canceled)